



**Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
November 12, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

X	Larry Bomke	X	Robert Plunk
X	Josh Collins	X	J.D. Sudeth
X	James Donelan	X	Joan Walters
	Karen Hasara	X	Robert Wesley
X	Jackie Newman		

Others:

Norm Sims - SSCPRC

Jeff Fulgenzi -SSCRPC

Matthew Case- SSCRPC

Gail Weiskopf - SSCRPC

Richard Funderburg, Ph.D. – University of Illinois Springfield

Christie Crites – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

a. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Joan Walters called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

b. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Chair Walters asked CEC members and SSCPRC staff to introduce themselves to Dr. Funderburg, an invited guest from the University of Illinois at Springfield, and to Ms. Christie Crites, of the engineering firm Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly.

Chair Walters announced that Karen Hasara had contacted her and would not be in attendance.

c. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting. There being none, Ms. Jackie Newman moved to approve the minutes from the last CEC meeting. Vice Chair Robert Plunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

d. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Walters welcomed Richard Funderburg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the University of Illinois Springfield to the meeting. Due to Mr. Norm Sims' previous discussions with the professor, Chair Walters turned the meeting over to Mr. Sims. Mr. Sims briefed the CEC on the meeting that he, Mr. Jeff Fulgenzi, and Ms. Amy Uden had with Dr. Funderburg where the project was initially discussed. He iterated that the project, as initially conceived, would allow taxpayers to look at what they are

getting back from government in terms of services, proportionate to what they are paying in the form of taxes. The public would then be able to use this tool to examine where individuals in Sangamon County stand versus individuals in McLean County, Champaign County, and Peoria County in terms of the value they receive from government. Mr. Sims noted that the utility of the dashboard was to be found in the comparisons it would enable; he stressed that comparisons would be possible both across counties and across time. Mr. Sims tied these efforts to those of the CEC which aim at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Given the similarity of Dr. Funderburg's research to the Higher Education "Dashboard" concept which had been discussed by the CEC, members of the CEC invited Dr. Funderburg to present at the meeting.

e. **PRESENTATION(S)**

- Presentation on Higher Education "Dashboard": Dr. Richard Funderburg, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, University of Illinois Springfield
 - Dr. Funderburg began the presentation by discussing his background in teaching and consulting. After the biographical introduction, Dr. Funderburg began to discuss research he recently conducted on how business taxes affect state manufacturing. The article, "The Impact of Marginal Business Taxes on State Manufacturing," was published in the *Journal of Regional Science* and was coauthored with three other individuals. With reference to this research, he discussed how the state of Illinois and Iowa differ in terms of taxes which affect business. Dr. Funderburg said that, for instance, the assessment ratio of property tax affects what a business pays; this ratio differing across municipalities, a lower property tax ratio may incent business development.
 - Dr. Funderburg noted how using a model such as the one he helped to develop can be of use because of its ability to show how certain factors affect what happens in the larger picture. He also stressed the novelty of the research and suggested that it would take some time to see results due in part to the data collection effort required which he noted would be quite substantial.
 - After a vigorous discussion in which CEC members raised questions pertaining to Dr. Funderburg's research and to how this project would help achieve CEC goals, Chair Walters suggested that the Commission should allow Mr. Sims and SSCRPC staff to continue discussions with Dr. Funderburg. Mr. Bob Wesley mentioned that he would like to see Dr. Funderburg present again at a future meeting.

f. **REPORT OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES**

- Chair's Report
 - Chair Walters stated the commission needs a copy of the "Open Meetings Act" test certificate from Ms. Newman. Ms. Newman commented that she had already completed the training for another group in which she participates and would make available a copy of her certificate to SSCRPC staff to keep on file.



- Report of Other Officers
 - There were no other reports.
- Committee/Taskforce Reports
 - Work with RLC as Strategic Partner
 - Vice Chair Plunk reported that he and Ms. Newman presented an overview of CEC recommendations on Shared Administration, Shared Procurement, Capital Funding, and Energy Efficiency at the October 29th Regional Leadership Council (RLC) regular quarterly meeting.
 - Vice Chair Plunk noted that the Regional Leadership Council has indicated a willingness to work with the CEC. He suggested that there will be a role for the CEC to play in the future as both groups work towards shared goals. He stressed the importance of SSCRPC staff involvement with both the RLC and the CEC and how this will enable future collaboration. In terms of moving forward with the Energy Efficiency recommendation, Vice Chair Plunk offered that Williamsville is already working on implementation by working with Carol Kulek.
 - Mr. Sims noted that an example of the effectiveness of regional efforts is witnessed by the hazard mitigation conversations that are currently ongoing. Chair Walters reported that the RLC is moving forward in part because RLC members are working together on issues of mutual concern more than in the past.
 - Regional Policing Study
 - Sen. Bomke reported that he and Hon. Karen Hasara had communicated with former Springfield Assistant Chief of Police Jim Cimarosa. He stated that he and Hon. Hasara had narrowed the scope of the study in that conversation. Sen. Bomke related that he and Hon. Hasara will continue to pursue the study and determine the cost of the undertaking shortly.
 - Legislative Linkages
 - Sen. Bomke noted that Hon. Hasara and he met with Phil Graves, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Senate Republicans and discussed CEC priorities. He stated that he discussed changes to mandated publications on the behalf of local governments. He noted that the topic is a difficult one but that the CEC will continue to pursue the matter.
 - Sen. Bomke suggested that it would be worthwhile to meet with Mr. Donelan on township general assistance funds. Mr. Donelan mentioned that there was a bill passed some time ago which allowed for a one-time transfer provision.



- Sen. Bomke also discussed CEC recommendations pertaining to school districts. He first discussed the CEC recommendation that superintendents in rural school districts could serve as administrators in multiple districts. Second, he discussed reviewing school district transportation costs related to homeless students. Ms. Christie Crites stated that after the devastating tornado which hit Washington, IL last year, school districts bussed displaced students who were living far from their home school at a considerable cost to the districts.

g. OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS

- There were no other special reports.

h. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on Fire/EMS Linkages
 - Vice Chair Plunk and Mr. Wesley reported on the status of developing linkages with Fire and EMS officials. Mr. Plunk stated that the Regional Leadership Council has formed a subcommittee on Fire/EMS issues. The first meeting is scheduled to be held on November 19th, 2014 at 5:30 PM at the Williamsville Village Hall. Mr. Plunk reported that both he and Mr. Wesley will be in attendance at the meeting as will RLC Treasurer and Village of Williamsville President Tom Yokley who worked to form the committee to address the CEC recommendation on Fire/EMS functions.
 - Vice Chair Plunk also stated that the five member committee of the Sangamon County Fire Chiefs Association expressed an interest in meeting with himself and Mr. Wesley to discuss concerns related to the CEC recommendation. Vice Chair Plunk and Mr. Wesley plan to meet with the committee on Monday, November 17th at the Fire Protection District in Sherman Illinois.
 - Senator Larry Bomke mentioned Public Act 098-1095 known as the “Regional Fire Protection Agency Act.” The Act establishes procedures for the creation of Regional Fire Protection Agencies and recommends consolidation of fire protection services in Illinois. Mr. Wesley mentioned that he was aware of the Act and had recently read over it. Sen. Bomke and Mr. Wesley agreed the Act would be beneficial as a reference in the future.
 - Mr. Plunk reported that he had received a seven page work plan from Mr. Wesley and that the report would be shared at the next regular CEC meeting on December 10, 2014.
- Update on Sewer Transfer Study
 - Mr. Jim Donelan stated that he, Chair Walters, and Mr. Fulgenzi met with Mr. Gregg Humphrey, Director of the Springfield Metropolitan Sanitary District (SMSD) and Mr. Mark Mahoney, Director of Public Works for the City of Springfield. Mr. Donelan reported that the general sentiment among attendees was



that meetings which discuss sewer consolidation efforts are fruitful for all involved. He stressed that the meetings provide opportunities for discussion which do not occur elsewhere. Mr. Donelan stated that both he and Chair Walters believe further meetings with SMSD and the City will be productive and that he and Chair Walters will meet again with the parties to discuss the next steps.

- Mr. Donelan stated that the recommendation was a long-term recommendation and that it would take time to move forward in the work plan. He noted that outside consultants may need to be brought in to address some of the issue. Outside consultants were an agenda item which Chair Walters noted was not reached at the meeting; she stated Mr. Humphrey did not believe that it was appropriate at this stage to engage certain parties.
- Examining a memorandum presented to CEC members by SMSD Director Gregg Humphrey, Sen. Bomke asked why such a discrepancy exists regarding rates for SMSD customers and rates for City customers. Chair Walters offered that a major component of the difference in price was due to the City not performing costly, necessary repairs. Both Chair Walters and Mr. Donelan noted that the total cost for the sewer study was not known at this time. Noting how much still needed to be discussed, Mr. Donelan suggested that it would be likely that he and Chair Walters would need to meet again prior to a potential trip to Peoria to study sewer consolidation there.

h. NEW BUSINESS

The next CEC meeting date will be December 10, 2014, at 3:00 pm in Room 212 of the Sangamon County Building.

i. PUBLIC COMENTS

Chair Walters asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

j. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, Chair Walters called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Newman made the motion, and Mr. Donelan seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf
Acting as Recording Secretary